

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1723

INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE

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SUBJECT: MORO TO DC AND PCI - NOT THE TIME FOR NEW
INITIATIVES

SUMMARY: IN A CAREFULLY WORDED ARTICLE TIMED FOR THIS EVEN-
ING'S OPENING OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT (DC) NATIONAL COUN-
CIL, VETERAN PARTY LEADER MORO BROKE A LONG SILENCE TO COM-
MENT ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION. IN RESPONSE TO BER-
LINGUER'S INITIATIVE FOR "NEW UNDERSTANDINGS" WITH THE DC,
MORO REJECTED ANY CHANGE SINCE THE PRESENT MINORITY GOVERN-
MENT REPRESENTED "THE MOST ADVANCED (POLITICAL) BALANCE" THAT
CAN BE ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME. MORO ALSO WARNED AGAINST
"ACTIVISTS" IN THE DC WHO MIGHT WISH TO UPSET THE ANDREOTTI
GOVERNMENT BY FORCING A POLITICAL CONFRONTATION AGAINST THE
PCI. END SUMMARY

1. MORO WILL PRESIDE OVER BUT WILL APPARENTLY NOT ADDRESS
THE DC NATIONAL COUNCIL WHICH OPENS DEC 10 WITH A SPEECH BY
PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI. NO MATTER. THE VETERAN DC LEADER
HAS BROKEN HIS SILENCE ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN A LONG
AND CAREFULLY REASONED ARTICLE ENTITLED "REFLECTION" IN
MILAN'S IL GIORNO. IN RESPONSE TO DEMANDS FOR CHANGES IN
THE PRESENT POLITICAL FRAMEWORK FROM BOTH WITHIN THE DC AND
NOW FROM THE PCI'S BERLINGUER (ROME 20088) MORO'S ANSWER IS
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PLAIN: NOT NOW.

2. TO THE PCI, MORO ANSWERED BERLINGUER'S CALL FOR "NEW UNDERSTANDINGS" WITH THE DC BY AFFIRMING THAT ANDREOTTI MONOCOLORE (SUPPORTED BY INDEPENDENT ABSTENTIONS) "REPRESENTED THE MOST ADVANCED (POLITICAL) EQUILIBRIUM" THAT CAN BE ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME. "TO THINK THAT ONE CAN GO BEYOND THIS WOULD BE TO IGNORE BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL FACTS WHICH CANNOT BE DISREGARDED."

3. MORO DIRECTED THE THRUST OF HIS ARTICLE, HOWEVER, TO THE "ACTIVISTS" IN HIS OWN PARTY WHO ARE TROUBLED BY THE EXISTING POLITICAL SITUATION AND HAVE ARGUED FOR A POLITICALLY CLARIFYING "SCONTRO" WITH THE PCI WHICH COULD ALSO RESULT IN ANTICIPATED ELECTIONS. TO THESE, MORO SAID THAT THE JUNE ELECTIONS CONFIRMED A LEFTWARD TREND IN THE COUNTRY. HE WARNED THAT THOSE WHO SEEK AN ELECTORAL CONFRONTATION COULD NO LONGER COUNT ON THE DEGREE TO WHICH ANTI-COMMUNISM COUNTED WITHIN PUBLIC OPINION IN THE PAST.

4. MORO BASES HIS ANALYSIS ON A VIEW OF ITALIAN POLITICAL EVOLUTION WHICH REGARDS THE CENTER-LEFT FORMULA OF THE SIXTIES (THE "SECOND PHASE" AFTER THE POST-WAR'S CENTER POLITICS) AS DEFINITELY OVER FOLLOWING THE JUNE ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, IT IS PREMATURE TO DETERMINE AT THIS TIME WHAT GOVERNMENT FORMULAS ARE POSSIBLE FOR "THE THIRD PHASE." NOW IS THE TIME TO RESIST "IMPATIENCE AND NERVOUSNESS," MORO SAID.

5. THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT, MORO CONCLUDES, MUST BE LOYALLY SUPPORTED BECAUSE IT PROVIDES THE VERY BREATHING SPACE THAT ALL THE PARTIES NOW NEED IN WHICH TO REFLECT AND TO WORK OUT A NEW POLITICAL ORDER. IT IS THEREFORE INCORRECT, MORO SAID, TO ACCUSE THE DC OF "INCERTAINTIES AND INDECISION" (AS THE PCI HAS), SINCE "DESPITE APPEARANCES" EVERY PARTY FACES THE SAME INCERTAINTIES AND INDECISION AT THIS TIME. IT IS THE HISTORIC FUNCTION OF THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE POLITICAL EQUILIBRIUM DURING THIS PERIOD OF REFLECTION. IT IS THEREFORE NOT THE TIME FOR CHANGE.

6. COMMENT. MORO'S INTERVENTION, AS THE DC NATIONAL COUNCIL OPENS, SHOULD ENHANCE THE PARTY'S UNITY BEHIND THE ANDREOTTI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOVERNMENT IN THE FACE OF PRESSURES FOR CHANGE FROM BOTH WITHIN (THE "ACTIVISTS") AND WITHOUT (BERLINGUER'S LATEST INITIATIVE). SINCE MORO HAS CAREFULLY RESERVED HIS POSITION UNTIL NOW, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT HE SPOKE OUT AT THIS POINT. TO THE PCI, MORO IN EFFECT DISMISSED AS DELUSORY ANY EXPECTATION OF A FURTHER OPENING AT THIS TIME. TO THE DC (RIFE WITH SUSPICION THAT MORO HAS BEEN MANEUVERING AGAINST ZACAGNINI AND, BY EXTENSION, ANDREOTTI), HE IS SAYING THAT THIS IS NOT

THE TIME TO SWITCH HORSES. AT THE SAME TIME, MORO APPEARS TO BE PREPARING THE GROUND FOR THE "AFTER-ANDREOTTI" PERIOD. THE OLD CENTER-LEFT FORMULA IS DEAD, HE ASSERTS, AND TALK OF A SOCIALIST "RECOVERY" IS THEREFORE FUTILE. HOWEVER, HE SUGGESTS THAT THE "THIRD PHASE" MIGHT WELL BE A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NON-COMMUNIST DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IN WHICH THE RELATIONSHIPS OF THE PARTICIPANTS WOULD "BE DESIGNATED IN A COMPLETELY NEW WAY." AND WHO, IF NOT MORO, HE SEEMS TO BE SAYING, WOULD BE THE MOST EXPERIENCED LEADER TO PUT TOGETHER THE NEW "THIRD PHASE" FORMULA? BEAUDRY

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